

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 IO-11 /096 W
----- 091026

R 021700Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7459

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGERS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN 0396

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 0397

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GB, MO, MR, SS

SUBJ: GABON'S POSITION ON SAHARA

1. IN INTERVIEW GRANTED MARCH 1 TO GABONESE TV, PRESIDENT BONGO REAFFIRMED TOTAL GOG SUPPORT FOR MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN POSITION IN FORMER SPANISH SAHARA.

2. RESPONDING TO QUESTION ABOUT POLISARIO DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, BONGO SAID "THERE IS NO QUESTION OF OUR CONSIDERING SAHARA AS A REPUBLIC. WE ARE TOLD THAT POLISARIO IS A LIBERATION MOVEMENT. LIBERATION OF WHAT? ARE WE TO RECOGNIZE HISEN HABRE BECAUSE HE MAKES NOISE? WERE WE TO RECOGNIZE POLISARIO AS A LIBERATION MOVEMENT, WOULD THIS MEAN THAT IN CASES OF COUNTRIES WHOSE UNITY IS INCOMPLETE AND WHO HAVE EXTERNAL OPPONENTS, THAT WE ARE TO RECOGNIZE THESE OPPONENTS WHEN THEY CREATE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS? WHERE WOULD THIS LEAVE UNITY? INSTEAD OF SPEAKING OF OAU, WE WOULD HAVE TO SPEAK OF

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THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN DIVISION. WE SUPPORT AND

WILL SUPPORT, WHATEVER HAPPENS, MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA.
I DO NOT KNOW THIS POLISARIO."

3. PRESIDENT ADDED THAT GOG REPRESENTATIVE
AT OAU CM HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO MAKE GABONESE POSITION
EQUALLY CLEAR, AND TO DEFEND GABON STRONGLY AGAINST
CRITICISMS REPORTEDLY LEVELED AGAINST GOG POLICY IN
COURSE OF ADDIS SESSION. STEIGMAN

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To: STATE
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